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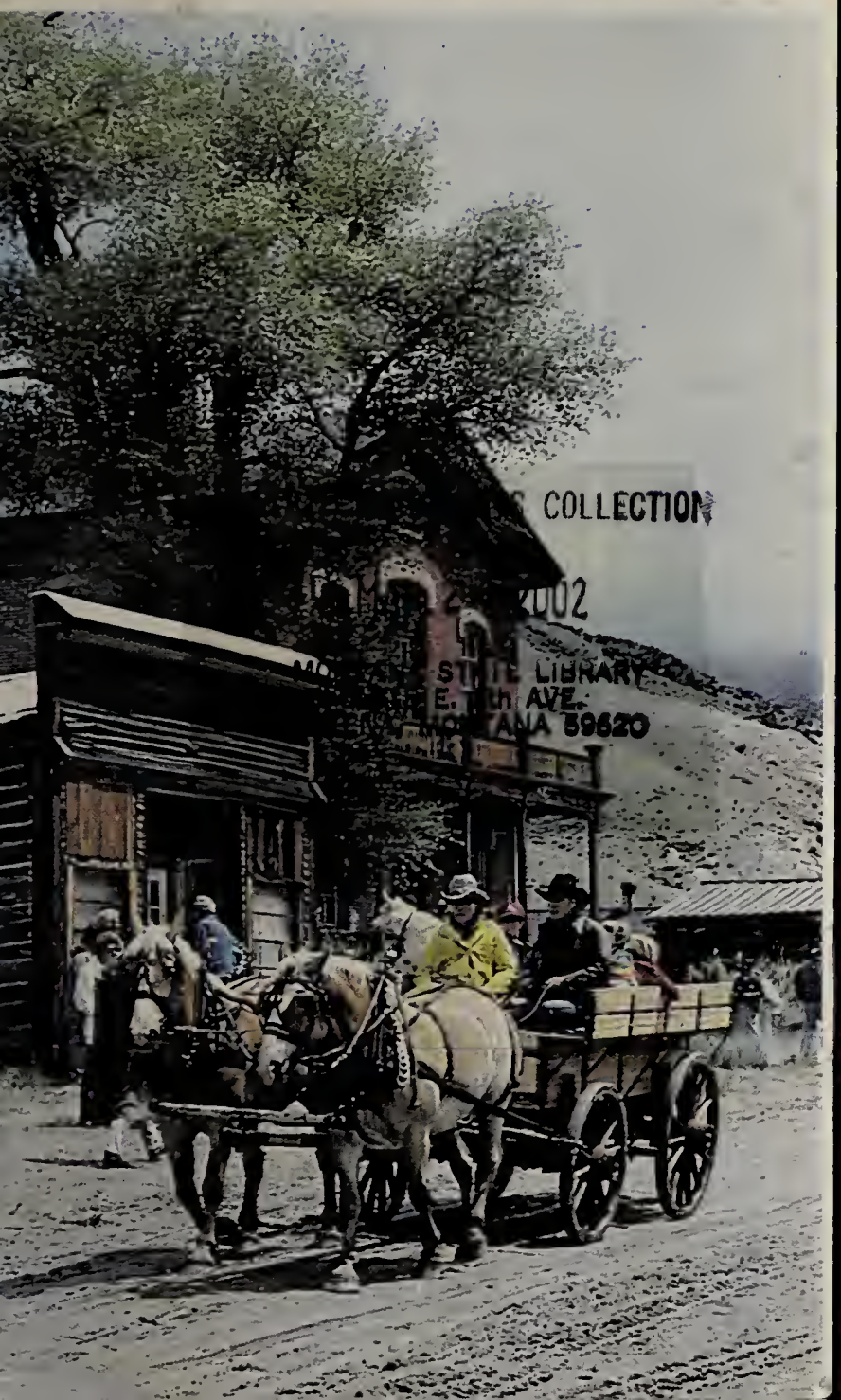
MONTANA STATE PARKS



WELCOME TO MONTANA S

Welcome to Montana, the Nation's Treasure State! One of Montana's jewels is its wonderful state park system. This brochure provides an overview of Montana's state park network, and specific information on each park. I encourage you to use this guide as a vehicle for exploring our fascinating network of state parks, which contain some of Montana's finest cultural, natural, and recreational resources. Wherever you find yourself in Montana, you are never far from a state park worth visiting.

Governor Marc Racicot

Front Cover:
Bannack Days, Bannack State Park, *by Lee Graves*

All photos MT Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks unless otherwise noted.

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Visitors to many Montana State Parks will find a profusion of wildflowers during the spring and summer months.

Native American heritage is an important focus in a number of Montana State Parks.

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MONTANA'S STATE PARK SYSTEM

Because of the exceptional recreational opportunities on Montana's federal lands, the diversity of opportunities available in the Montana State Park System is sometimes overlooked. This would be a mistake, as the true picture of Montana's natural, cultural and recreational resources is not complete without the state parks.

Montana's State Park System was created in 1939, when the Montana Legislature created a State Parks Commission. Lewis and Clark Caverns became the state's first state park when the site was transferred to Montana from the federal government. Today, the network of sites has grown to forty-one, in addition to a number of affiliated sites.

State parks are found in every region of the state, offering a wide range of landscapes, natural features, history, and recreational opportunities. Some parks feature a diversity of visitor facilities such as showers, boat launch sites, and concessions, while others are much less developed. The symbols included with the description of each state park provide information on what is available at each park.

Some basic information about traveling in Montana, and the Montana State Park System is listed below:

GENERAL MONTANA TRAVEL INFORMATION: Call Travel Montana toll-free at 1-800-VISIT-MT (in Monana dial 406-444-2654). Hearing-impaired travelers may receive information by calling Travel Montana's telephone device for the deaf (TDD) at (406) 444-2978.

STATE PARK INFORMATION: For more detailed state park information, call the Montana Parks Division at (406) 444-3750. Hearing-impaired recreationists may call our TDD number at (406) 444-1200.

CAMPING: Camping is offered at many state parks. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. While services vary between individual parks, most sites have a picnic table, a fire ring or grill, and parking for one vehicle and a RV.

GROUP CAMPING: Several state parks have sites set aside for group use. Parks with group camping facilities include Big Arm, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Missouri Headwaters, Ackley Lake, and Hell Creek.

RENTAL CABINS: Rustic cabins are available for rent at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park. Call (406) 287-3541.

DAY USE PARKS: Some Montana state parks are open for a range of day uses, but do not allow overnight stays.

PRIMITIVE PARKS: A primitive parks system was established by the Montana Legislature in 1993. Primitive parks have a minimum of services available, with visitors expected to pack out their own trash.

SEASON: Some parks are open for day use and camping year-round, while others close at least some of their facilities during the winter. For the most current information, call the number listed for each park.

FEES: Day use fees are charged at many state parks. Purchase of an annual State Parks Passport allows free entry to all Montana State Parks. Camping fees vary according to the level of service provided.

Camping fees are charged per "camper unit" for a campsite. A "camper unit" is defined as a motorized vehicle, motorhome, camping bus, pull-type camper, tent, or any other device designed for sleeping.

A self-registration system is in use at most state parks. Recreation use fees are also charged for designated group use facilities, guided tours, and other services. Fee information is available from the individual parks. Special floater fees are in effect on the Smith River.

PICNICKING: Many state parks have developed facilities for picnicking, and some include special facilities for group use. Consult the symbols included with each state park description.

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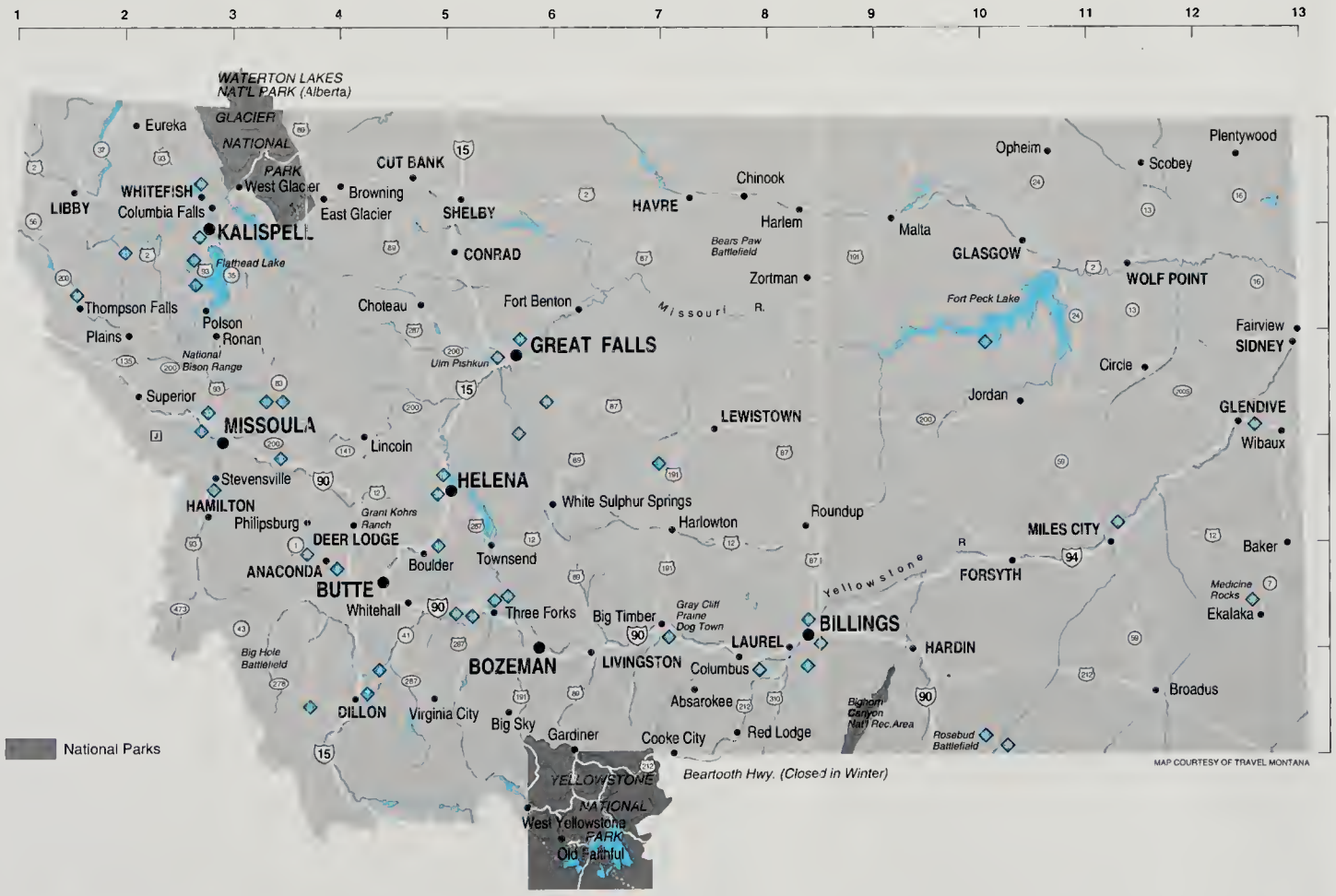
MONTANA STATE PARKS

PARK SITE	Pg.#	Camping	Group Facilities	Picnicking	Day Use Only	Showers	Dump Station	Visitor's Center Inform.	Interpretive Displays	Hiking/Interp. Trails	Boat Launch	Hand Launch Access	Fishing	Swimming	Drinking Water	Pack-In/Pack-Out	Toilets
Ackley Lake	12	•	•	•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Anaconda Smelter Stack	7																
Bannack	7	•	•	•				⊙	•				•		•		⊙
Beaverhead Rock	7				•											•	
Beavertail Hill	9	•		•							•		•		•		•
Chief Plenty Coups	14			•	•			⊙	•	•			•		•		⊙
Clark's Lookout	8				•										•		
Cooney	13	•	•	•		⊙					⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Council Grove	9			•	•				•				•		•	•	⊙
Elkhorn	8				•				•							•	
FLATHEAD LAKE	9																
Big Arm	9	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
Finley Point	9	⊙		⊙							⊙		⊙	•	•		⊙
Wayfarers	9	•		•			•				•		•	•	•		•
West Shore	10	•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Wild Horse Island	10				•								•	•		•	
Yellow Bay	10	•	•	•		•					•		•	•	•		•
Fort Owen	10			•	•			•	•								•
Frenchtown Pond	10			•	•		•					•	•	•	•		•
Giant Springs	12			⊙	•			⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙		•		⊡
Greycliff Prairie Dog Town	13			⊙	•				•								
Hauser Lake (Black Sandy)	8	⊡		⊡			•		•		⊡		⊡		•		⊡
Hell Creek	16	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
Lake Elmo	14			•	•			•	•	•	•		⊙	•	•		⊡
Lake Mary Ronan	10	•		•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Lewis & Clark Caverns	8	⊙	•	•		⊙	•	•	•	•			•		•		⊙
Logan	11	•		•			•				•		•	•	•		•
Lone Pine	11			•	•			⊙	•	⊙					•		⊙
Lost Creek	8	⊙		•					•	•			•		•	•	⊙
Madison Buffalo Jump	13			•	•				•	•						•	
Makoshika	14	•	•	⊙				⊙	•	•					•		⊙
Medicine Rocks	15	•	•	•											•	•	•
Missouri Headwaters	13	⊙	•	•			•		•	•	•		•		•	•	⊙
Parker Homestead	8				•												
Pictograph Cave	15			⊙	•				•	•					•		⊙
Pirogue Island	15				•											•	
Placid Lake	11	⊡	•	•					•		⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Rosebud Battlefield	15			•	•				•								
Salmon Lake	11	⊡		⊡					•	•	•		•	•	•		⊙
Sluice Boxes	12			•						•			•			•	•
Smith River	12	•		•								•	•		•		•
Spring Meadow Lake	7			⊙	•					⊙		•	⊙	•	•		⊙
Thompson Falls	11	•		•							•		•	•	•	•	•
Tongue River Reservoir	15	•		•							•		•	•	•		⊙
Ulm Pishkun	12			•	•					•							
Whitefish Lake	11	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•

⊙ = Includes Disabled Access ⊡ = Disabled Access Open for 1995 Season.



Montana

State Parks Map

For detailed information,
write or call
Montana Parks Division
1420 East 6th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-3750

State Parks

- Ackley Lake (D7)
- Anaconda Smelter Stack (E4)
- Bannack (F3)
- Beaverhead Rock (F4)
- Beavertail Hill (D3)
- Chief Plenty Coups (F8)
- Clark's Lookout (F4)
- Cooney (F8)
- Council Grove (D3)
- Elkhorn (E5)
- Flathead Lake (B3)
  - West Shore
  - Big Arm
  - Wild Horse Island
  - Yellow Bay
  - Finley Point
  - Wayfarers
- Fort Owen (E3)
- Frenchtown Pond (D3)
- Giant Springs (C6)
- Greycliff Prairie Dog Town (F7)
- Hauser Lake (Black Sandy) (D5)
- Hell Creek (C10)
- Lake Elmo (F8)
- Lake Mary Ronan (B3)
- Lewis & Clark Caverns (E5)
- Logan (B2)
- Lone Pine (B3)
- Lost Creek (E4)
- Madison Buffalo Jump (E5)
- Makoshika (D12)
- Medicine Rocks (E12)
- Missouri Headwaters (E5)
- Parker Homestead (F5)
- Pictograph Cave (F9)
- Pirogue Island (E11)
- Placid Lake (D3)
- Rosebud Battlefield (G10)
- Salmon Lake (D3)
- Sluice Boxes (D6)
- Smith River (D5)
- Spring Meadow Lake (D5)
- Thompson Falls (C1)
- Tongue River Reservoir (G10)
- Ulm Pishkun (C5)
- Whitefish Lake (B3)

MONTANA STATE PARKS

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Chief Plenty Coups	14			•	•			⊙	•	•			•		•		⊙
Clark's Lookout	8				•										•		
Cooney	13	•	•	•		⊙					⊙		•	•	•		⊙
Council Grove	9			•	•				•				•		•	•	⊙
Elkhorn	8				•				•							•	
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Big Arm	9	•	•	•							•		•	•	•		•
Finley Point	9	⊙		⊙							⊙		⊙	•	•		⊙
Wayfarers	9	•		•			•				•		•	•	•		•
West Shore	10	•		•					•	•	•		•	•	•		•
Wild Horse Island	10				•								•	•		•	
Yellow Bay	10	•	•	•		•					•		•	•	•		•
Fort Owen	10			•	•			•	•								•
Frenchtown Pond	10			•	•		•					•	•	•	•		•
Giant Springs	12			⊙	•			⊙	⊙	⊙			⊙		•		⊡
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Lake Elmo	14			•	•			•	•	•	•		⊙	•	•		⊡
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WATER RECREATION: Boat launch sites, carry-in accesses, boat rentals, swimming, and fishing opportunities *(see below)* are available at a number of state parks.

Montana State Parks offer a wonderful variety of water-based recreational opportunities.

FISHING: Before baiting your hook, pick up a Montana fishing license. It allows you to fish during open seasons both inside and outside state parks. Fees and regulations are outlined in the current Montana Fishing Regulations, available by calling the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at (406) 444-2535, or by visiting any Departmnet office or licensing agent. Hearing impaired recreationists may call out TDD number at (406) 444-1200.

Travel Montana

Fishing is an activity available at many Montana State Parks.

TRAILS: Some state parks feature designated hiking and/or interpretive trails. Check the symbols under each park for more information.

WATCHABLE WILDLIFE: Many of Montana's State Parks offer excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing and interpretation. Look for the binocular symbol along Montana's roadsides for good viewing sites.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES: While most Montana state parks offer superb natural beauty, may parks highlight cultural and historical themes as well. Important historical Native American sites are included in the park system, as are nineteenth century ghost towns and other significant Montana cultural features.

Montana State Parks contain a diversity of cultural features, activities, and interpretive programs.

PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

REGULATIONS: You are a welcome visitor, but please respect and leave our state parks as you find them; collect only photographs and memories. Glass containers are not allowed on beaches. Pets are welcome in Montana State Parks unless "NO PETS" signs are observed. Pets must be on a leash. Please observe the 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. quiet hours. Discharge of firearms is prohibited in State Parks unless otherwise posted.

SAFETY: Outdoor adventures and sightseeing are premium experiences in Montana as long as adventurers and sightseers stay on trails, are mindful of hazardous weather conditions, observe boating safety regulations, and excercise common sense. Inexperienced whitewater enthusiasts should always consult local information sources for river conditions, or be accompanied by a professional river guide when entering unfamiliar or highly dangerous stretches of Montana's scenic waterways.

Floating the wild Smith River: Life jackets help ensure a safe trip.

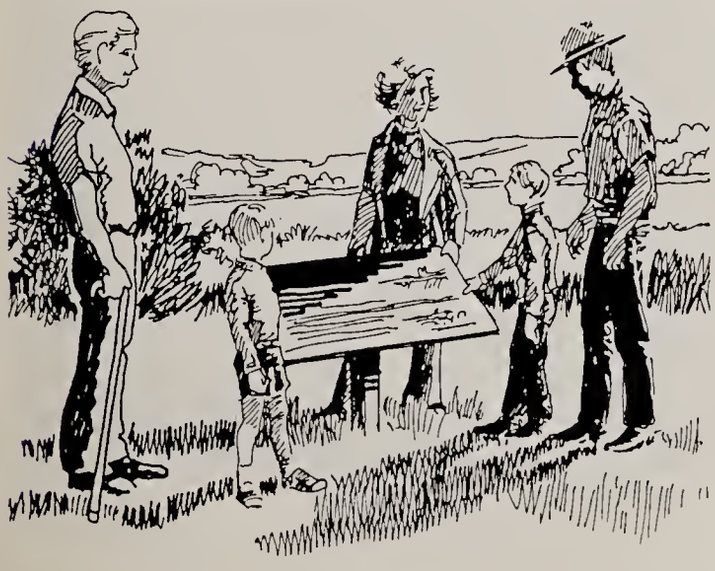
PROTECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY: Park users are advised to avoid parking in remote areas or locations hidden from general view. Visitors who cannot avoid bringing valuables to a park should keep the items with them at all times. Park rules and regulations were developed to help us protect the environment and provide you with a rewarding state park experience. To report serious violations or vandalism, dial 1-800-TIP-MONT. Outside of Montana dial 1-800-327-3212.

STATE PARK VOLUNTEERS: Volunteers are key members of the Montana State Parks team. Many staff visitor centers, assist with special events, and help with maintenance chores. Campground hosts receive a free campsite in exchange for greeting visitors, dispensing firewood, collecting fees, and helping with other park tasks. For more information about volunteer programs, contact Montana State Parks (406) 444-3750.

Friendly campground hosts and other volunteers play a vital role in helping visitors have an enjoyable stay at Montana's State Parks.

SUGGESTIONS: We are a service organization and we value your ideas on how we can do a better job.

Please write to: Parks Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, PO Box 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701.



STATE PARKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What follows is a listing of just some of the annual events and activities in Montana State Parks. Call the individual park or park region for specific times and dates.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

• Most parks are open for ice fishing, ice skating, wildlife viewing, hiking, cross-country skiing, winter camping, photography, and other winter outdoor activities. Reduced camping rates are in effect. Rental cabins are available at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.
• Warming house at Bannack State Park open on weekends for winter recreation.

Cozy log cabins are available for rent all year at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park

MARCH

• New license year begins. Don't forget to renew your fishing license and State Park Passport.

APRIL

• Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park open to public tours on weekends.
• Smith River floater fees available at half price.
• Winners announced for annual State Park Poster Contest.

1994
Fifth Grade Poster Contest Winner

MAY

• Buzzard Day at Makoshika State Park, a fun event for the whole family.
• Motorboat testing at Lake Elmo State Park.
• Tours available at Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park seven days a week.
• Regular season floater fees in effect on Smith River.
• Bannack State Park Visitor Center opens.

JUNE

• Reenactment of Lewis and Clark encampment at Giant Spring State Park. Living interpretation of portage around the Great Falls of the Missouri River. A variety of historical activities for people of all ages.
• Saturday night lecture series begins at Bannack State Park. Call (406) 843-3413 for a list of lecture topics. Also, tours of Bannack townsite, mine, and mill available each weekend throughout the summer.
• "Peace Day" at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. A day for all peoples and tribes to come together for reconciliation and healing.
• Roe River Day at Giant Springs State Park. A special day of fun acitivies designed for children.
• Annual smallmouth bass tournament at Hell Creek State Park. Call Montana Bass Federation (406-752-2524) for more details.

JULY

• Fort Owen Day at Fort Owen State Park. Ceremony to commemorate Montana's first permanent white settlement in 1841.
• Spring Meadow Lake State Park Triathalon (biking, running, and swimming). Call (406) 444-4720 for more details.

Spring Meadow Lake State Park hosts an exciting triathalon every July.

• Bannack Days at Bannack State Park. History comes alive in this celebration of the Montana frontier. Hearty meals are served at the Meade Hotel, and an old-time church service is offered on Sunday morning.

Bannack Days—a celebration of Montana frontier life—is a popular annual event at Bannack State Park.

• Lake Elmo State Park hosts the annual Beach Games Day.
• Annual walleye tournament at Hell Creek State Park. Call (406-557-2248) for more details.

• Special days for kids and seniors at Spring Meadow State Park.

AUGUST

• Garden City Triathalon at Frenchtown Pond State Park. For further information, call (406) 542-5500.
• Dinner Theater in the Park at Makoshika State Park. Enjoy dinner and a play in a beautiful natural setting.

SEPTEMBER

• Native American Awareness Week at Chief Plenty Coups State Park. Activities focus on Native American culture, history, and dress.

OCTOBER

• Off season camping fees in effect *($4.00 per night with a State Park Passport).* Also reduced floating fees on Smith River.
• Halloween haunted house at Bannack State Park. Historic ghosts walk the halls of the Meade Hotel, camping ghost stories, and hot chocolate.
• Lewis and Clark Caverns remain open for public tours on weekends.

NOVEMBER

• Most parks remain open for camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, and assorted winter activities. Reduced fees in effect.

Winter offers visitors a different perspective on Montana's State Parks.

DECEMBER

• Holiday candlelight tours of Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park.

Phil Farnes

Visitors in the Cathedral Room, Lewis and Clark Caverns. A special candlelight tour of the cave is offered in December.

TOURISM COUNTRIES

Six Exciting Choices to Explore

Gold West Country is Montana's colorful southwest corner, a beautiful region of lofty mountains and broad valleys, restored gold-mining camps and prized trout streams. Walk through a historic Indian battlefield, hike backcountry trails, and cast a line into fabled rivers that beckon trout fishermen from around the world. *Contact (406) 846-1943.*

Glacier Country is Montana's spectacular northwest corner, a dazzling mixture of wildlife and wilderness, sparkling lakes and lush pine forests. Explore the soaring beauty of Glacier National Park, play nationally acclaimed golf courses, spend a week at family resorts, and discover wild rivers that are perfect for fishing and rafting. *Contact 800-338-5072 or (406) 756-7128.*

Charlie Russell Country is north-central Montana as the famed western artist loved it, a dramatic expanse of land and sky, colorful cowboys and Plains Indians. Float the wild and scenic Missouri River, follow the trail of Lewis and Clark, visit prehistoric hunting sites, and explore mountain ranges where the Rockies meet the Great Plains. *Contact 800-527-5348 or (406) 761-5036.*

Yellowstone Country is a magnificent mountain paradise in south-central Montana, an unforgettable land of watchable wildlife and majestic peaks, scenic highways and blue-ribbon trout streams. Visit Yellowstone National Park, stay at historic dude ranches, or take a high-country trip through a pristine wilderness area. *Contact 800-736-5276 or (406) 446-1005.*

Missouri River Country is Montana's far-flung northeast corner, a fascinating land of high plains and deep badlands, vast wheat ranches and the mighty Missouri. Visit a million-acre wildlife refuge, watch thousands of waterfowl take to the Big Sky from prairie ponds, and launch a motorboat on immense Fort Peck Lake, one of the nation's best walleye and sauger fisheries. *Contact (406) 525-3410.*

Custer Country is Montana's southeastern corner, a historic landscape of the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Indian reservations, of meandering rivers, rolling hills and rugged canyons. Tour the grassy hilltop where Lt. Col. George Custer lost his life in the Battle of the Little Bighorn, and fish for trout, walleye and smallmouth bass in some of Montana's finest lakes and streams. *Contact (406) 665-1671.*

GOLD WEST COUNTRY

ANACONDA SMELTER STACK *542-5500*

At 585 feet this stack is one of the tallest standing brick structures in the world. There is no public access to the site, so the stack can only be viewed at a distance. *(In Anaconda on Montana 1.)*

BANNACK *834-3413*

The ghost town of Bannack, the site of Montana's first major gold discovery in 1862, became the state's first territorial capital in 1864. The main street is lined with historic structures that recall Montana's formative years. *(5 miles south of Dillon on I-15, then 21 miles west on Secondary 278, then 4 miles south on county road.)*

A fascinating piece of Western history is preserved at Bannack, one of Montana's best known ghost towns.

BEAVERHEAD ROCK *994-4042*

(Day Use Only)

Sacajawea recognized this huge landmark, resembling the head of a swimming beaver, while traveling with Lewis and Clark in 1805. (*14 miles south of Twin Bridges on Montana 41.)*

SPRING MEADOW LAKE *444-4720*

(Day Use Only)

This 30-acre, spring-fed, man-made lake on the western edge of Helena is noted for its clarity and depth. Open to non-motorized boats only, the lake is popular for swimming, sunbathing, scuba diving, and fishing for trout, bass and sunfish. *(State 12 West, North on Joslyn to Country Club.)*

Spring Meadow Lake near Helena provides good angling for several species of fish.

CLARK'S LOOKOUT *834-3413*

(Day Use Only)

This outcrop above the Beaverhead River provided the Lewis and Clark Expedition a view of the route ahead. *(In Dillon on I-90 at Montana 41 exit, .5 mile east, then .5 mile north on county road.)*

HAUSER LAKE (BLACK SANDY) *444-4720*

One of the few public parks on the shores of Hauser Reservoir, Black Sandy is an extremely popular weekend boating, fishing, and water skiing take-off point. *(7 miles north of Helena on I-15, then 4 miles east on Secondary 453, then 3 miles north on county road.)*

ELKHORN STATE PARK *444-4720*

(Day Use Only)

The ghost town of Elkhorn comprises the remnants from a silver mining boom in the 1880's. At its peak, the town's population was 2,500 people. Elkhorn State Park includes two of the buildings which remain from the old town. *(I-15 at Boulder exit, 7 miles south on Montana 69, then 11 miles north on country road.)*

LEWIS & CLARK CAVERNS *287-3541*

Montana's first and best-known state park features one of the most highly decorated limestone caverns in the Northwest. Naturally air conditioned, these spectacular caves are lined with stalactites, stalagmites, columns, and helictites. The caverns are electrically lighted and safe to visit. *(19 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)*

LOST CREEK *542-5500*

Lost Creek Falls cascade over a 50-foot drop to provide one of the most scenic and popular spots in the park. Wildlife, especially mountain goat and bighorn sheep, are frequently seen on the cliffs above. *(1.5 miles east of Anaconda on Montana 1, then 2 miles north on Secondary 273, then 6 miles west.)*

PARKER HOMESTEAD *994-4042*

(Day Use Only)

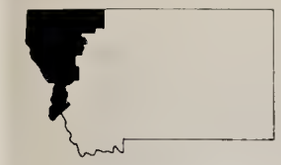
This sod-roofed log cabin is representative of the frontier homes of pioneers who settled Montana. *(8 miles west of Three Forks on Montana 2.)*

STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS *444-4720*

While this area does not resemble a state park, the formal grounds and flower gardens are visited by thousands of people each year. Capital grounds ecompass 50 acres around the capital building and state office complex.
(Located in Helena at the junction of 6th and Montana Ave.)

Montana's State Capitol grounds are part of the State Park System, and are open to the public.

GLACIER COUNTRY



BEAVERTAIL HILL

542-5500

This area includes ½ mile of Clark Fork River frontage. Visitors enjoy fishing and camping in the shade provided by a stand of river cottonwoods. *(26 miles southeast of Missoula on I-90 to Beavertail Hill exit, then .25 mile south on county road.)*

COUNCIL GROVE

542-5500

(Day Use Only)

This park marks the location of the 1855 council between Isaac Stevens and the Flathead, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille Indians. Council Grove is the site where the Hellgate Treaty was signed, which established the Flathead Indian Reservation. *(In Missoula on I-90 at Reserve St. Exit, 2 miles south on Reserve St., then 10 miles west on Mullan Rd.)*

FLATHEAD LAKE

Flathead Lake is located between Kalispell and Polson on Highways 93 and 35. It is renowned for boating, sailing, fishing, camping and swimming. The park's six units provide public access to the shores of Flathead Lake, and provide boat access to Wild Horse Island. Flathead Lake is the largest freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River, and was dredged out by receding glaciers during the Wisconsin period of glaciation. The Lake is 38 miles long and from 5 to 15 miles wide. Encompassing 188 square miles at an elevation of 2,892 feet, the lake's maximum depth is 339 feet, with 185 miles of shoreline.

Big Arm Unit

Summer: 849-5255
Winter: 752-5501

On Flathead Lake's Big Arm Bay, this park is a popular jump-off point for boat tours of Wild Horse Island. Big Arm's long pebble beach is popular with sunbathers, and Canada geese watchers. *(12 miles north of Polson on U.S. 93)*

One of the many attractions at Flathead Lake are Canada geese, seen here at Big Arm.

Finley Point Unit

Summer: 887-2715
Winter: 752-5501

Finley Point is located in a secluded, mature conifer forest near the south end of Flathead Lake. Lake trout and yellow perch fishing are often excellent. 16 slips for boats up to 25 feet long are rented with each 40 foot RV campsite. A boat pump-out station and overnite boat slips with utilities are also available. *(11 miles north of Polson on Montana 35, then 4 miles west on county road.)*

Wayfarers Unit

Summer: 837-4196
Winter: 752-5501

Located near the quaint resort town of Bigfork on the northeast shore of Flathead Lake. A mature

mixed conifer forest makes this site very pleasant for camping and picnicking. Visitors can also enjoy its beach, wildflowers, walking trails, and the best sunsets in the valley. Trailer and boat sewage dump stations are available at this park. *(.5 miles south of Bigfork on Montana 35.)*

West Shore Unit *Summer: 844-3901*
Winter: 752-5501

West Shore is located in a mature forest overlooking Flathead Lake. The park's glacially-carved rock outcrops give spectacular views of Flathead Lake and the Mission and Swan Mountain Ranges. The shoreline is rocky, and fishing and boating are popular. The campground is located above the lake in a fir, pine, and larch forest. *(20 miles south of Kalispell on U.S. 93.)*

Wild Horse Island Unit *752-5501*
(Day Use Only)

One of the largest islands in the inland U.S., this wilderness park is noted for its endangered palouse prairie plant species and incredible wildlife. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, whitetail deer, songbirds, waterfowl, bald eagles, and wild horses make this 2,163 acre wilderness island their home. Boat access via Big Arm is carefully regulated. *(Access from Big Arm via boat.)*

Wildhorse Island in Flathead Lake provides exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities in a rugged, pristine setting.

Yellow Bay Unit *752-5501*

Located in the heart of Montana's famous sweet cherry orchards, this park includes Yellow Bay Creek and a wide, gravelly beach. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, lake trout fishing, and bird watching. *(15 miles north of Polson on Montana 35.)*

FORT OWEN *542-5500*
(Day Use Only)

This tiny park is a significant part of Montana's frontier history. Built of adobe and logs, Fort Owen is the site of the first permanent white settlement in Montana. *(25 miles south of Missoula on U.S. 93 to Stevensville Junction, then .5 miles east on Secondary 269.)*

FRENCHTOWN POND *542-5500*
(Day Use Only)

This forty-acre, spring-fed lake provides a swimming platform and angling for a variety of warm water species. A new group shelter is available for reservations. *(15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 at Frenchtown Exit #89, then 1 mile west on Frontage Rd.)*

LAKE MARY RONAN *752-5501*

Located on the east shore of Lake Mary Ronan, this 76-acre primitive park is shaded by a forest of douglas-fir and western larch. Attractions include fishing for trout, bass, and kokanee salmon, bird watching, huckleberry picking, swimming, and mushroom hunting. *(U.S. 93 at Dayton, then 7 miles northwest.)*

LOGAN

Summer: 293-7190
Winter: 752-5501

Surrounded by a 17-acre mature forest of western larch and ponderosa pine, this park is on the north shore of Middle Thompson Lake. Visitors enjoy swimming, boating, camping, waterskiing, and fishing for rainbow trout, largemouth bass, kokanee salmon, and yellow perch. A trailer sewage dump station is also available. *(45 miles west of Kalispell on U.S. 2.)*

LONE PINE

755-2706

(Day Use Only)

This 200-acre park offers a visitor center, hiking trails, and a day use archery range. Scenic overlooks provide views of Flathead Lake and the Big Mountain Ski Area. *(4 miles southwest of Kalispell on Foy Lake Rd., then 1 mile east on Lone Pine Rd.)*

PLACID LAKE

542-5500

Located on a branch of the Clearwater River, Placid Lake is known for its good trout and kokanee salmon fishing. Interpretive panels provide an account of early-day logging practices. *(3 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83, then 3 miles west on county road.)*

SALMON LAKE

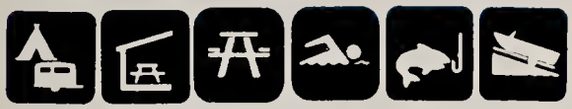
542-5501

Salmon Lake is one of the beautiful links in a chain of lakes fed by the Clearwater River. Fishing, boating, and a variety of other water sports are popular activities in this woodland setting of western larch, ponderosa pine, and douglas-fir. *(5 miles south of Seeley Lake on Montana 83.)*

Salmon Lake State Park is a haven for various water-related sports.

THOMPSON FALLS

752-5501



A mature, mixed pine forest makes this 36-acre primitive park cool and private. Attractions include bird watching, fishing for bass, trout, and ling, nature walks, and boating on Noxon Rapids Reservoir. *(1 mile northwest of Thompson Falls on Montana 200.)*

WHITEFISH LAKE

Summer: 862-3991
Winter: 752-5501

This 10-acre park has a mature spruce/fir forest which contributes to the pleasant, secluded campground and beach. Boating, swimming, and fishing opportunities are abundant. *(1 mile west of Whitefish on U.S. 93, then 1 mile north.)*

CHARLIE RUSSELL COUNTRY

ACKLEY LAKE

454-3441

Ackley Lake, named after an early settler and frontiersman, offers diverse water sports opportunities. The lake provides good angling for 10 to 15-inch rainbow trout. *(17 miles west of Lewistown on U.S. 87 to Hobson, then 5 miles south on Secondary 400, then 2 miles southwest on county road.)*

GIANT SPRINGS

454-3441

(Day Use Only)

Discovered by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805, this is one of the largest freshwater springs in the nation. Visitors can picnic on the banks of the Missouri River and visit the nearby visitor center, fish hatchery, and Rainbow Falls overlooks. *(3 miles east of U.S. 87 on River Drive, Great Falls.)*

Visitors can observe large rainbow trout at Giant Springs State Park, where one of the largest springs in the country gushes into the Missouri River.

SLUICE BOXES

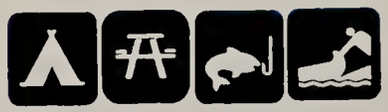
454-3441

Along the hiking trail that follows an abandoned railroad grade you can enjoy a day of fishing Belt Creek or visit nearby mining ghost towns. *(5 miles south of Belt on U.S. 89, then 2 miles west on county road.)*

The Belt Creek gorge in Sluice Boxes State Park offers trout fishing, challenging floats, and wilderness hiking along an abandoned rail line.

SMITH RIVER

454-3441



A 61-mile float trip down the remote Smith River Canyon provides incredible scenery and fantastic trout fishing. There are 27 boat camps along the river from the put-in point at Camp Baker to the take-out point at Eden Bridge. Reservation and permit required. *(16 miles northwest of White Sulphur Springs on Secondary 360, then 7 miles north on county road.)*

ULM PISHKUN

454-3441

(Day Use Only)

Thought to be the largest in the U.S., this prehistoric bison kill site has a mile-long buffalo jump. *(10 miles south of Great Falls on I-15 at Ulm Exit, then 6 miles northwest on county road.)*

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

COONEY

Summer: 445-2326
Winter: 252-4654

This irrigation reservoir is the most popular recreation area serving south-central Montana. Attractions include good walleye and rainbow fishing. Boating and camping opportunities are abundant. *(22 miles southwest of Laurel on U.S. 212, then 5 miles west of Boyd on county road.)*

GREYCLIFF PRAIRIE DOG TOWN *(Day Use Only)*

This blacktailed prairie dog community is protected and preserved through the efforts of the Nature Conservancy and the Montana Departments of Transportation and Fish, Wildlife & Parks. Interpretive displays help to tell the story of these entertaining prairie dogs. *(9 miles east of Big Timber on I-90 at Greycliff exit.)*

An entertaining colony of wild prairie dogs can be easily viewed at the Greycliff Prairie Dog Town, adjacent to I-90 near Big Timber.

MADISON BUFFALO JUMP *994-4042*

(Day Use Only)

Prior to the introduction of the horse to the Indians of the Northern Great Plains in the mid-1700's, the Blackfeet, Flathead and Shoshone tribes stampeded herds of bison over this precipice in order to secure the necessities of food, clothing, shelter, and tools. *(23 miles west of Bozeman on I-90 at Logan exit, then 7 miles south on Buffalo Jump Road.)*

Madison Buffalo Jump & Ulm Pishkun State Parks provide excellent opportunities to view historic, Native American hunting sites.

MISSOURI HEADWATERS

Established where the Jefferson, Madison, and Gallatin Rivers converge to form the Missouri River, Missouri Headwaters was a geographical focal point important to early Native Americans, trappers, traders, and settlers. *(3 miles east of Three Forks on I-90 at Three Forks exit, then east on Secondary 205, then 3 miles north on Secondary 286.)*

Interpretive information on the Lewis and Clark expedition is one of the attractions at Headwaters State Park, an important historical site and source of the Missouri River.

CUSTER COUNTRY

CHIEF PLENTY COUPS

252-1289

(Day Use Only)

This is the home of Plenty Coups, last chief of the Crow Indians. Plenty Coups' log home and store remain as evidence of the chief's efforts to lead his people toward a peaceful co-existence with white people. Park includes a museum/visitor's center. *(1 mile west of Pryor on county road.)*

Located near the Pryor Mountains, Chief Plenty Coups State Park includes the former Crow Chief's log home, and a museum interpreting his life.

LAKE ELMO

Summer 256-6205

(Day Use Only) *Winter 252-5654*

A short drive from Billings, this 64-acre reservoir is a very popular park for swimming, boardsailing, boating (non-motorized) and fishing. *(In Billings, U.S. 87 north to Pemberton Lane, then .5 mile west.)*

Lake Elmo State Park near Billings is a popular place for non-motorized water sports.

MAKOSHIKA

365-8596

To the Sioux Indians, Ma-ko-shi-ka meant "bad earth" or "badland." In addition to the pine and juniper-studded badlands formations, the park also houses the fossil remains of such dinosaurs as tyrannosaurus and triceratops. Interpretation of the area and displays are included in the new visitor center. Scenic roads and nature trails offer vistas of the badlands of Makoshika. *(On Snyder Avenue in Glendive.)*

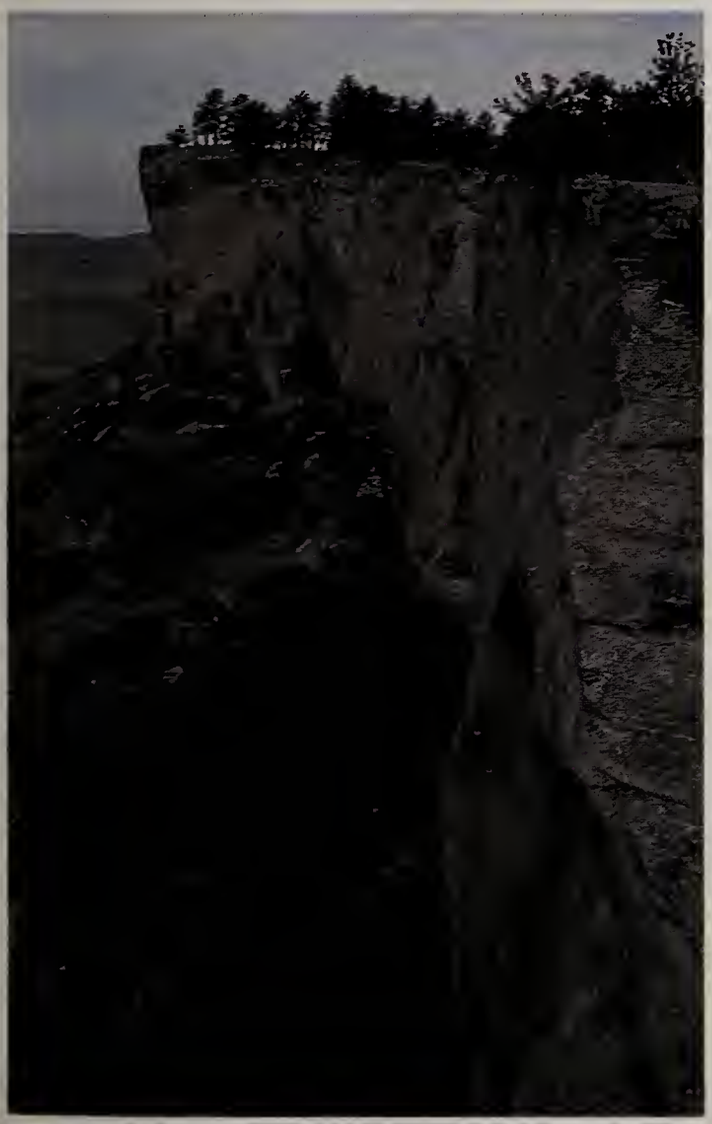
Makoshika State Park preserves some of Montana's most striking landforms, and is the site of important fossil dinosaur discoveries.

MEDICINE ROCKS *232-4365*

Native Americans came here to contact magical spirits that reside among the unique sandstone rock formations. *(25 miles south of Baker on Montana 7.)*

PICTOGRAPH CAVE *252-4654*

The Pictograph Cave complex was home to generations of prehistoric hunters. A paved ¼-mile trail allows visitors to view ancient rock paintings, known as pictographs. *(In Billings on I-90 at Lockwood exit, then 6 miles south on county road.)*



Nestled at the base of picturesque sandstone cliffs, Pictograph Cave State Park preserves and interprets some of Montana's best known ancient Native American rock paintings.

PIROGUE ISLAND *232-4365*

(Day Use Only)

Floaters find this cottonwoods covered Yellowstone River island an excellent spot to view wildlife and hunt for Montana moss agates. *(1 mile north of Miles City on Montana 59, then 2 miles east on Kinsey Road, then 2 miles south on county road.)*

ROSEBUD BATTLEFIELD *232-4365*

(Day Use Only)

This is the site of the June 17, 1876, battle between the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians and General Crook's infantry and cavalry. *(25 miles east of Crow Agency on U.S. 212, then 20 miles south on Secondary 314, then 3 miles west on county road.)*

An important frontier battle site is preserved on the rolling prairie of Rosebud Battlefield.

TONGUE RIVER RESERVOIR *232-4365*

The impounded Tongue River provides a 12-mile-long reservoir set in the scenic red shale, juniper canyons and open prairies of southeastern Montana. Boating and other water sports are popular here. Fishing is excellent for bass, crappie, walleye and northern pike. *(6 miles north of Decker on Secondary 314, then 1 mile east on county road.)*

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

HELL CREEK *232-4365*

On the Hell Creek Arm of Fort Peck Lake, this park provides facilities for most water sports as well as excellent walleye fishing. This is a launch point to the beautiful Missouri Breaks area. *(25 miles north of Jordan on county road.)*

A view from the road to Hell Creek State Park, located in the beautiful Missouri Breaks country.

PARK SYMBOLS

- Cultural Park
- Fishing
- Visitor Center/ Information
- Boat Launch
- Interpretive Displays
- Hand Launch Access
- Campground
- Boat Rentals
- Group Facilities *(Call park for more details)*
- Trails
- Tenting Area
- Interpretive Trails
- Showers
- Interpretive Programs
- Electrical Hook-up
- Public Phone
- Sewage Dumping
- Concessions
- Shelters
- Groceries
- Picnic Area
- Disabled Accessible *(Toilets)*
- Swimming

A World of Diversity at Montana's State Parks

MONTANA
STATE PARKS

Lee Graves

Smith River Camp, by Lonnie Ball, Travel Montana

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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